

Jean Baptiste Valle House II
St. Mary's Road
Ste. Genevieve
Ste. Genevieve County
Missouri

HABS No. MO-1285

HABS
MO,
99-SAIGEN
34 -

PHOTOGRAPHS

ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20013-7127

Addendum to
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(Pierre Dorlac House)
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REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

JEAN BAPTISTE VALLE HOUSE II

HABS
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34-

Location: St. Mary's Road, Ste. Genevieve, Ste. Genevieve
County, Missouri, 63670

Present Owner: Harold J. and Bette L. Geraghty

Present Occupant: James Baker

Present Use: Residence

Significance: This house is a good example of vertical log
construction (poteaux sur sole) with original roof of
sawn rafters.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of Erection: c. 1807. This house has been associated with Pierre Dorlac who died in 1803 and whose widow and second husband sold the property in 1806 with a simple horizontal log house (maison-en-boulins) on it. The new owners were Jean Baptiste Valle, nephew of the commandant by the same name, and his wife Catherine Moreau. According to tree-ring analysis the house would have been built for them in 1807 or shortly thereafter.
2. Original and subsequent owners: Legal description:
Part of Survey No. 218 in the town of Sainte Genevieve, beginning at the northeast corner of No. 217 and running with the west line of New Bourbon (St. Mary's) Road, south 19 degrees, east 201 feet and 4 inches to a place which is the beginning of the parcel, then south 70 degrees, west 145 feet to a point which is the northeast corner of the lot conveyed to Oswin H. Meyer and his wife, then south 19 degrees east along the east line of the Meyer lot 106 feet and 5 inches to a point which is a corner, then 70 degrees east 145 feet to a point for the corner in the west line of New Bourbon Road. Then north 19 degrees west along with the west line of the road 106 feet and 5 inches to the beginning.
Chain of title:
 - a. June 6, 1806, general warranty deed from Jean Marie Legrand and Elizabeth Langellier, his wife to Jean Bte. Valle for 300 Piastres. Deed book A, pages 96-97. (Elizabeth Langellier was the wife of Pierre Dorlac. He died in 1803 and she married Jean Marie Legrand in 1805.)

- b. April 23, 1816, by quit claim deed from the heirs of Pierre Dorlac: Pierre Dorlaque (son), Constance Rangee (daughter) and her husband Pierre Rangee Jr. to Jean Bte. Valle. Deed Book B, page 403.
- c. November 2, 1830, general warranty deed from John Bte. Valle and Catherine Moreau, his wife to Bartholomy St. Gemme for 155 piastres. Deed book E, page 383.
- d. February 8, 1859, by quit claim deed from the heirs of Charles Valle: Charles C. Valle, August E. Valle, L. Bert Valle and Philomine, his wife, Melanie Valle (wife of John L. Bogy), Francis and Louise Valle, Emily Valle (wife of Vernont Allen), Mary Valle (wife of Isidore Scelere) to Melanie Valle, widow of Charles Valle and Daughter of Bartholomy St. Gemme. Deed book Q, page 393.
- e. September 17, 1864, general warranty deed from Melanie Valle to Francis Valle for \$1,100.00. Deed book Q, page 334.
- f. June 18, 1867, general warranty deed from Francis L. Valle and Louise, his wife, Vermont R. Allen and Emily his wife (nee Valle) to John Bogy for \$1,500.00 Deed book S, page 177.
- g. May 18, 1867, by quit claim deed from heirs of Bartholomy: Eugene Guibourd, Felix Guibourd, Louis Guibourd, Augustus Guibourd, and Victorine Guibourd to Melanie Valle. Deed book 30, page 244.
- h. August 21, 1867, quit claim deed from Louis B. St. Gemme to Melanie Valle. Deed book 30, page 244.
- i. February 20, 1880, general warranty deed from John L. Bogy and Melanie P. Bogy (nee Melanie Valle) to Maximilian Bader. Deed book 27, page 571.
- j. May 12, 1927, by will of Macimilian Bader dated January 28, 1922 to Ellen Mary Bader, his wife. Deed book 99, page 370.
- k. June 15, 1927, general warranty deed from Ellen M. Bader to John Ruebsam and George J. Basler for \$6,500.00. Deed book 97, page 337.
- l. January 17, 1929, general warranty deed from John Reubsam, George Basler and Annie Basler, his wife to Francis J. Glaser and Leonard C. Glaser. Deed book 100, page 33.
- m. October 10, 1933, quit claim deed from Francis J. Glaser and Agnes Glaser to Leonard C. Glaser and Marie. Deed book 104, page 146.
- n. March 22, 1969, general warranty deed from Josephine Basler to Lawrence E. Dallas and Melissa A. Dallas, his wife. Deed book 185, page 85.
- o. November 19, 1973, general warranty deed from Lawrence E. Dallas and Melissa A. Dallas to Harold J. Geraghty and Bette L. Geraghty. Deed book 208, page 423.

3. Alterations and additions: The house appears to have been remodeled several decades after it was built; there is a transom over the entry door, and there are pedimented door and window lintels in the interior of a mid-nineteenth century style.

B. Historical Context:

Ste. Genevieve was one of the most important French colonial settlements in the mid-Mississippi valley, and the one that best preserves the architecture of that period. The Jean Baptiste Valle House II is a typical example of its period.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This is an example of vertical log construction on a stone foundation, what the French called "poteaux sur sole." Its plan, general form, and detail are characteristic of creole architecture, but reveal Anglo-american influence.
2. Condition of fabric: good

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: One story on a basement with high attic, 35'-0 1/4" across the front by 50'-6" deep.
2. Foundations: Random cut stone.
3. Walls: Vertical, hewn, white oak logs, mortised into a sill, infilled with bouzillage, plastered or sheathed with horizontal clapboards.
4. Structural system, framing: Vertical log structure on a sill carrying a plate, hewn logs closely spaced, floor beams mortised into the sill and the plate, vertically sawn, coupled rafters braced by collar beams. Rafters of short leaf pine.
5. Porches: A typical French colonial gallery at the front and rear of the house. The porch still has its original, beaded, exposed joists. Secondary rafters extend over the rear gallery giving the characteristic double pitch to the roof at the rear of the house. A rafter extends from the ridge of the roof out to the edge of the front gallery and is supported by porch posts. The rear gallery has been enclosed with screen and a half-wall sheathed with weatherboards as a back porch.
6. Chimneys: A chimney with a stone foundation and brick

upper construction carries two fireplaces, one on the main level and one in the basement. Brick chimneys serve the fireplaces, or stoves added later.

7. Openings: The principal entrance is at the center of the front of the house. A back door at the rear of the house provides a service entrance.

- a. Doorways and doors: The front door is four-panelled with a three-light transom above with Greek Revival detail.
- b. Windows and shutters: Windows are double hung, 6/6. Louvered shutters survive.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Metal covering over earlier wood shingles.
- b. Cornice, eaves: No eave projection, boxed in plate at eave line of the porch.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

- a. First floor: A five room house with deep central hall. The hall is flanked by a room on each side.
- b. Cellar: Under entire house, with exposed stone and brick foundation walls, and later concrete floor.
- c. Attic: Simple open and unfinished space.

2. Stairways: Boxed in corner stairway in living room leads to attic space.

3. Flooring: 1" thick wood floor over 2" thick tongue and groove wood flooring. Vinyl tile in some areas.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster walls. The east wall in the kitchen is exposed and reveals the vertical log construction.

5. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: Panelled doors with pediments.
- b. Windows: Six lights over six lights with pediments.

6. Decorative features and trim: Wainscot treatment through the hall.
7. Hardware: Some door hardware of the Greek Revival period.
8. Mechanical equipment: modern
 - a. Heating, air conditioning, ventilation: One Federal-style mantel from the house has been preserved and is now located in the Aaron Elliot House at 207 S. Main.
 - b. Lighting and plumbing are modern additions.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The house faces east across St. Mary's Road at the south edge of town, looking toward flood plain and the original agricultural plots.
2. Outbuildings: The house is in the yard of a heavy construction firm, surrounded by equipment, a small modern office, and miscellaneous modern sheds.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Bibliography:

- A. Primary and unpublished sources: Deed records in the Ste. Genevieve County Clerk's Office, County Courthouse. Other records in the Ste. Genevieve Archives (SGA), collected on microfilm, Western Historical Manuscripts Collection, University of Missouri-Columbia.
- B. Secondary and published sources:

Ekberg, Carl J., Colonial Ste. Genevieve, An Adventure on the Mississippi Frontier (Gerald, Missouri: The Patrice Press, 1985).

Franzwa, Gregory M., The Story of Old Ste. Genevieve (St. Louis: The Patrice Press, 1967).

Peterson, Charles E., "Early Ste. Genevieve and its Architecture," The Missouri Historical Review, XXXV:2 (January 1941), pp. 207-232.

Porterfield, Neil H. "Ste. Genevieve, Missouri," in John Francis McDermott, editor, Frenchmen and French

Ways in the Mississippi Valley (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1969), pp. 141-177.

Writers' Program of the Work Projects Administration, Missouri, A Guide to the "Show Me" State (Missouri State Highway Department, 1941).

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) team of the Rocky Mountain Regional Office, National Park Service, under the direction of Historical Architect Thomas G. Keohan. Documentation was carried out during the summer of 1985 at the HABS field office in Ste. Genevieve, Missouri, by project supervisor Osmund Overby (University of Missouri-Columbia), project architects James Q. Marsh (Hemet, California), William D. Cesaletti (Keaau, Hawaii), and Terance A. Gruenhagen (North Dakota State University), and project historian Claudia A. Barbero (University of Missouri-Columbia).

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